

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

To the Senate and Assembly:

We meet under circumstances of unusual solemnity to legislate for the honor, for the interest and for the protection of the people of the State of New-York. The oath which we have taken, to support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New-York and to perform our duties with fidelity, has at this time especial significance. It teaches us to look upon each of these Constitutions as equally sacred, that each is to be upheld in its respective jurisdictions. At this time, the power of the one is openly defied by armed rebellion, while the other is endangered by the confusion and discord growing out of civil war. This "oath, dedication or test," is not a mere formality; it is a part of the tenure of the office we hold. Until we have thus solemnly submitted ourselves to the commands of these instruments, living up to our personal views and opinions and pledging ourselves to obey their requirements, we are not permitted to perform our official duty.

To uphold the General Government, New-York has seen since the outbreak of this war 225,600 soldiers in the field. To organize this vast army, my predecessor, and since acting under his direction in his military staff, have used unnumbered labor and shown high capacity. The duties growing out of this service have been greater than those falling upon the officials of other States, and in their performance compare favorably with the conduct of the war on the part of the General Government. While our soldiers are periling their lives to uphold the Constitution and restore the Union, we owe it to them who have shown an endurance and patriotism unequalled in the history of the world that we condone their devotion in our field of duty. We are to take care when they come back that their home rights are not invaded, that they shall not find when they return to the scenes of civil strife that the securities of their persons, the security of their homes or the protection of their property, have been lost by us while they were fighting for their national interests in a distant field of duty.

I shall do my duty to fill all vacancies in official stations in the army by promotion for meritorious services or gallant conduct in the field; this is a measure of justice, and will give to them the rewards where they have been fairly earned and will stimulate both officers and men, by a hand-to-hand contest, to excel in patriotic services in an honest cause.

OUR STATE AFFAIRS.

While so many parts of our country are laid waste by war, their towns and cities desolated, their homes destroyed, their citizens slaughtered, and all that makes social happiness a curse, out-with the tread of armies, we have cause for gratitude that in this State the circle of misfortune, public charities in full and sufficient operation; all forms of infirmities, suffering and want have been relieved.

Our schools, academies and colleges are in successful operation. Institutions designed to rescue the young and helpless from careers of vice, are still engaged in the prevention of misery and crime. Our prisons under a liberal system designed to reform, as well as punish, still protect our community against convicted criminals. Our courts are open for the security and protection of persons and property.

Mechanical and agricultural pursuits are in the main successfully conducted. Our vast internal and foreign commerce have assumed proportions far beyond that of any former period. But for the overshadowing gloomy cloud of war, and its heavy drafts upon the blood and treasure of our citizens, there could not be found four millions of people in the enjoyment of greater happiness and prosperity.

The continued and rapid extension of the great charities of the State, even in the midst of a war which would tax to the utmost the energies of any nation, past or present, is a striking evidence at once of the enlightened benevolence of our people and the greatness of our resources. It is not necessary for me to dwell upon the importance of those truly noble institutions—the New-York State Lunatic Asylum, the New-York Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, and for the Blind, the State Asylum for Idiots, and the State Inebriate Asylum. They are emphatically entitled to the proper patronage of the State. The Orphan Asylums and hospitals of the State should be fostered at a period when each battle deprives many households of their natural protectors, and increases the number of those who may properly claim the support of charity or the care of institutions for the sick and wounded.

I recommend the enactment of a law authorizing the appointment of a number of the medical profession as a Commission of Lunacy, whose duty it shall be to examine into the condition of the insane now confined in the almshouses, poor-houses, jails and private lunatic asylums. The subject has been strongly urged upon the attention of previous Legislatures by the medical profession, and I am sure the humanity and propriety of the proposition is too manifest to receive any other than your favorable action.

The annual report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction shows that 321,889 pupils attended school in 1862, being a larger attendance than for any previous year. It will also appear that a greater number of teachers were employed than heretofore, the increase being drawn from the female portion of the community, that a larger sum was paid for teachers' wages, and that the schools were in session for a longer period in the aggregate, than during any year.

The annual report of the Regents of the University will show that the colleges and academies of the State, notwithstanding the drain of the war on their numbers, have continued in active and vigorous operation. The number of students in attendance has been 33,748, a little more than 1,000 less than for the previous year. The means of higher education are more ample, and its character more thorough and elevated than they have ever been.

The Society for the Reformation of Juvenile Delinquency in the City of New-York, and the House of Refuge of Western New-York, will submit to you their annual reports. I commend these important institutions to your favorable consideration.

It appears from the Report of the Inspectors of State Prisons that the number of convicts in the prisons on the 30th of September last was 2,410, the receipts into the Treasury for prison earnings during the fiscal year were \$191,043 27, and the payments thereon, on account of the prisons, were \$311,744 81.

The Annual Report of the Superintendent of the Banking Department shows that the total amount of circulating circulation issued by that officer to Banks, Banking Associations, and Individual Banks, on the 30th of September last, was \$12,260,530.

This circulation is recurred as follows:

Bonds and Mortgages..... \$21,242 47
New-York Stock..... 10,026,892 10
Stock in Bank..... 436,466 67
Other State Stock..... 11,836,456 00
Bonds for Incorporated Banks under special laws..... 65,289 14
Cash on Deposit..... 163,730 60

Aggregate held September 30, 1862..... \$36,442,316 00
\$36,379,551 00

Increase of Securities in 1862..... \$6,622,439 13
Increase of State Stock in 1862..... 5,616,159 00
Decrease in Bonds and Mortgages in 1862..... 474,399 01
Decrease in New-York Stock in 1862..... 100,612 00
Decrease in Illinois State Stock in 1862..... 36,763 33

The Superintendent of the Insurance Department will exhibit in his Annual Report, many facts connected with the important duties administered by him of interest to the public.

The Commissioners of Emigration report that during the year 1862, 75,982 alien emigrants arrived at the port of New-York, being an increase of 10,453 over the previous year. The Commissioners believe that a large immigration, much in excess of the past four years, will shortly commence from all parts of Europe. I recommend to your attention the suggestion contained in their annual report, and especially that with reference to quarantine. The City of New-York and the country at large are too much interested in the improvement of the sanitary condition of the emigrant, and the protection of that port from contagious and infectious diseases, to omit any measures which shall tend to protect it.

I renew the following recommendation of my predecessor:

"A change is absolutely necessary in the laws relative to excise, so as to lessen their encroachment, especially in regard to tobacco. The tax which was placed on tobacco practically never reached the consumer, nor did it ever reach the manufacturer."

The mounting principal and the interest on the State debt has been paid in coin. During the past fiscal year the debt of the State was reduced two millions one hundred thousand dollars, by the redemption of that amount of canal debt.

THE FUNDED DEBT.

The Funded Debt on the 30th of September last, stood as follows:

Gold and Silver..... \$23,661,610 25
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General Fund Debt..... \$35,07,662 02

Total Funded Debt..... \$93,79,932 02

By abstaining from further borrowing, and by do-

ing the usual annual contributions to the credit of the Sinking Funds, the Controller estimates that the above debt will be substantially extinguished within twelve months.

Balance in the Canal Fund, Oct. 1, 1862..... \$3,149,164 00
Receipts in all cases during the next year ending with Sept. 30, 1863..... \$29,400,000 00

Total Payments during the same period..... \$32,549,164 00

Balance in Treasury, Oct. 1, 1862..... \$5,340,612 00

CANAL FUND.

Balance in the Treasury to the credit of the Canal Fund, Sept. 30, 1862..... \$2,64,621 26

Received in all cases from Canal tolls, of various kinds, and interest on revenue bonds..... \$4,264,999 67

From proceeds of taxes..... \$2,765,623 09

From other sources..... \$60,831 10

Total Payments during the same period..... \$8,000,831 00

Balance in the credit of the Canal Fund on the 30th Sept. 1862, etc..... \$4,264,999 67

The gross receipts from tolls, for the past season of navigation, was about \$5,180,000. But the receipts only the amount paid into the public Treasury for the use of the canals. Our estimate of the extended commerce of New-York, to call all the canals, tolls, rents, of various kinds, and interest on revenue bonds, is \$4,264,999 67

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